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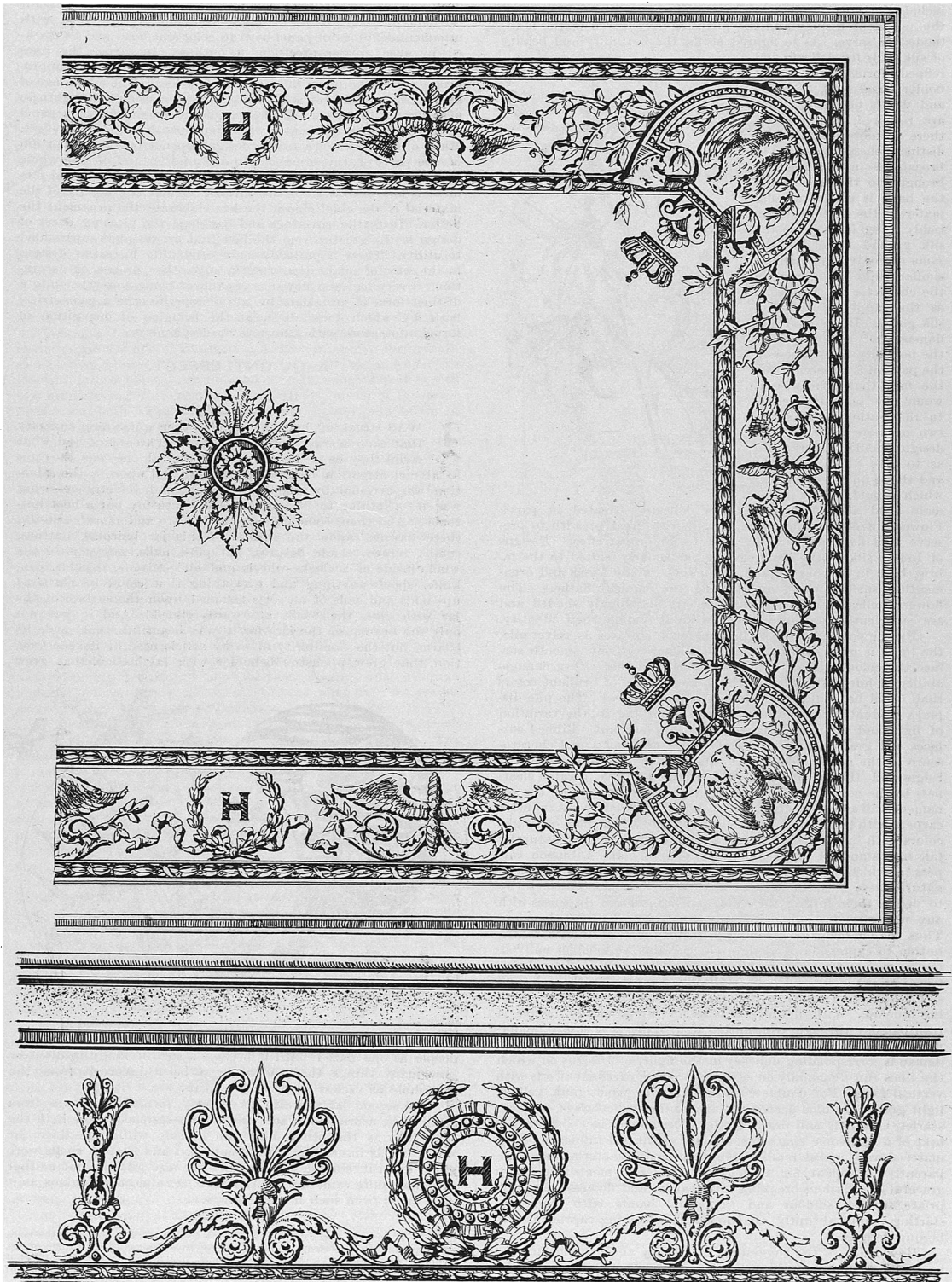
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## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

### RANDOM NOTES.

THE coarse, flat, orange-tinted glass flagons, used by native pilgrims and travelers in India, have made their appearance as a wall decoration. They are suspended by colored ribbons, and sometimes ornamented with floral designs, but the more artistic way is to use them *au naturel*.

An attractive pin cushion is made by stuffing three silken sacks firmly with bran or any other material and tying them together round the necks with a bow of moirè ribbon. The sacks should be six inches high and about four inches in width, and made of some pretty shade of pongee silk. They may be all of one color to match the toilet set or of three different shades. A light fall of cream lace falls from the ribbon bow.



CEILING AND FRIEZE, DESIGNED AND EXECUTED BY THE LINSPAR DECORATING CO., 45 BROADWAY, FOR HUDNUT'S UPTOWN PHARMACY.

## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

A pretty cover for flower-pot suitable for parlor or boudoir table is made of any colored satin. This is veiled with a briar lattice work, and where the briars cross is set a miniature rose, so that the cover is studded with the soft pinky petals.

A pretty floral decoration is a small muff of gilt basket work, tied in the center with a ribbon and filled with a pot of flowers carelessly arranged.

The latest fad is to decorate window boxes with virgin cork. Having placed the boxes in position, procure a board, not necessarily the depth of the box, but sufficiently long to allow of a continuous line of cork along or round the window. The cork is best cut in pieces about ten inches wide and not less in height than the front of the boxes, some pieces being higher. This is secured to the board with a strong wire, the lower line being made straight with the window sill and the top irregular. A good effect is produced by giving the surface of the cork a good coat of boiled oil, afterwards a good coat of Vandyke brown paint; this gives a rich walnut appearance. All unsightly hollows are filled with dry moss. The whole may now be firmly secured to the boxes around the window with a few strong screws.

Table decorations are arranged very low, and growing plants are out of favor. Sometimes cut flowers are spread on the cloth itself; this is very effective if the blossoms are not too straggling or many; they should start from a center, such as the base of a dish or flagon, and flow from thence round the other ornaments in a well ordered wreath.

Horned articles are not new, but they seem to be in special favor just now. Hassocks, hat-racks, what-nots and corner shelves, with plush covers and with horn consoles, are the favorites.

A pot of growing strawberries, laden with flowers and fruit, is a beautiful table decoration, provided the pot itself be not too obtrusive in size.

Fashion has decreed that books are not suitable parlor ornaments. They are proper in a sitting-room, allowable in a bed-chamber, but from the one apartment which epitomizes whatever there may be of family elegance or splendor, they must be rigidly excluded.

A small mantelpiece, designed for a lady's boudoir or bedroom, has doors which shut over the grate when it is not in use. They are made to open back, so as to lie flat against the wall, and appear as part of the scheme of the mantelpiece. On one side these doors are decorated with painting on lincrusta or wood, or in any other way which the general furnishing of the room would suggest; but on the reverse side there are mirrors. These panels are made reversible. They swing round on pivots at the side of the panel, so that the mirrors may be inclined in any direction, like a cheval glass. By placing the doors at a convenient angle, a lady may get a front and back view of her dress at once—always a consideration for those who are particular about the hang of their skirts and drapery.

A very artistic and ingenious way of treating the wall and skirting the doorway, sides and top, is done by means of a clothes-line, which is stiffened by ordinary mucilage or flour paste, bent into designs required, and left till hardened. When applied to the wall the bas-relief effect is very pleasing. A rather more complicated and difficult decoration of the same sort is made by working the line up into the design required, then trusting it to a color. A silver applied to a pale bay background gives a very rich effect. Rope panels may be made very effective by bronzing the rope. A beginner in this work will find unlimited possibilities for both designs and coloring.

The new Nottingham curtains have frilled borders.

Armorial cornice poles, to which the curtain is attached with chain and metal clasp, is one of the novelties introduced this season. A wall loop and hook of the same material and design is made to match.

A new piece of furniture may be made out of two old ones, if one chance to have two large chairs of the same shape or nearly enough alike to join smoothly. Chairs with square seats and a triangular back are the best; these are joined by means of hinges. Across the top a triangular shelf is fitted into the space between the backs. This is useful for tea-cups and saucers, cream-pitchers, etc., in these days of universal tea-drinking.

A new thing in doyleys are those worked on linen, after the order of the Byzantine guipure, in button hole stitch and bars, with the under part cut away. They wear well and look well.

If one does not feel able to buy an expensive fringe for a portiere, and will not have a cheap one, the stiff line of the edge of the fabric may be broken by raveling out the goods two inches. In hanging portieres, one side should be caught back with a chain, while the other is allowed to face in straight folds.

A mending basket may be made from an ordinary peach basket by putting a strip of stout cloth, cretonne or blue denim around the top and drawing together with a shirr. A row of pockets, arranged like those on a shoe bag, is placed around the outer edge of the basket. These receptacles hold thread, needles, pins, thimble, darning cotton, etc., while the articles to be mended are kept inside.

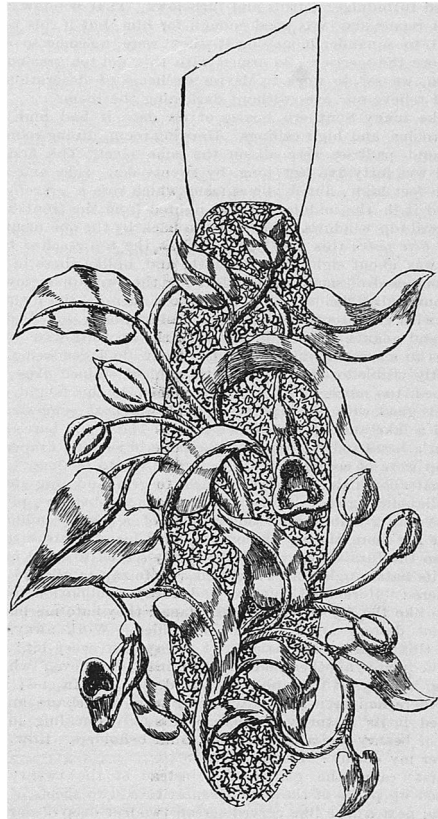
The latest embroidered curtains and portieres have a handsome bold pattern worked across the upper part. The curtains

should be only sufficiently broad to stretch easily and somewhat slack across the window, but without any folds, the curtains meeting in the center, or only slightly overlapping one another. By this arrangement the beauty of the design is in no way spoiled or hidden, even when the curtains are drawn back during the day.

Nothing is more effective for decorative purposes than applique, which has the advantage, also, of being very quickly done. Those who have time and patience prefer crewel work. A great improvement to the plain applique is the raised work, which, if wanted only slightly raised, to give roundness to a flower or leaf, may be done easily with wadding. If the design represents the trailing branch or bough of a tree, sections of the fruit may be made in cardboard, which is a great saving of time and trouble.

For the cigarettes handed round after dinner there are any number of dainty receptacles now made in polished wood or morocco, and there are also little brocade trays very much in vogue, which give an admirable effect.

Little strawberry baskets, gilt or silvered, and filled with damp moss in a saucer fitted into the basket, are pretty, inexpen-



CARVED BREAD KNIFE.

sive table decorations, which may be varied by putting flowers, berries with the moss.

Two tulip buds on one stem are the latest and daintiest china receptacles for holding salt.

Fur carpets are taking the palm for novelty. The hostess who has secured an entire floor covering of white lamb's wool or curled Angora goat, or white fox, or even grey wolf hides, awaits the coming of her guests with equanimity. True, but not with equanimity can she await the coming of summer; she must be up and doing and caring for her furs betimes, or the wary moth will have by far the best of it.

The frying or stewpan has been taken from the kitchen, decorated and hung in the parlor; it has a bold design of large flowers roughly painted on it, and is suspended by means of a wide, soft silk scarf tied around its long handle.

The canary has taken the place of the music-box. Birds are now used as a pleasing feature in the artistic decorations for balls, parties, teas, weddings and other society events. In his flight into the drawing-room or reception hall the canary has not forced out any other useful or ornamental display, but has taken his place as an addition to the whole.